

gonist than parliamentary debates. Democratic normality? It could also be a good excuse for limiting oneself to living the commodity that means not entering into conflict with reality.

19 Political news and professional autonomy

ENRIC COMPANY

The author takes us back to the end of the decade of the sixties and the beginning of the seventies, a stage during which the country's press underwent a fundamental change. The editorial offices filled up with young people committed to progressive social and political changes. Many of them received their intellectual formation in the universities, and were dedicated to the anti-Francoist struggle.

In the decade of the eighties these professionals occupy posts of responsibility, not only in the media but also alongside political posts of confidence, in institutional press offices. On the other hand, it is here that we find the people responsible for a press with sensationalist elements, committed to selling scandals rather than news. Finally, the author thinks that it is necessary to have professionals with their own criteria, not without a critical sense but with a big dose of objectivity.

28 Photographers, 15 years later

PEPE ENCINAS

Currently working as a professional photographer, the author reflects about how the concept of graphic journalism has undergone profound changes in a period of 15 years. Photo-journalists now have a greater sensitivity regarding news and an aesthetic, visual concept.

In 1974, the newspapers had one or two photographers on their permanent staff, while others worked as assistants without any kind of work security. Later, a group of photographers tried to form a news "pool" in order to counterbalance the official reports of Franco's dying regime. Journalists also went to great lengths to launch the profession in other fields like that of sport.

117

Nowadays, newspapers are becoming more and more graphic. As a result, the profession is establishing itself. The new "Periódico de Catalunya" was the first newspaper to assign someone to the post of head of a photography section. The same Barcelona newspaper introduces colour into the press. As in other fields, the technological revolution contributes new perspectives. The tele-process, the appearance of quick and very sensitive films, offset, totally change the panorama. However, photographers still have to face up to several problems: nowadays, handing in photographs in record times and physically carrying the equipment about, determine this profession that the author considers to be one of the greatest ones in the world.

34

The writing of a bored God (Fifteen years of writing and stopping writing)

ARCADI ESPADA

The author of this work thinks that the last fifteen years of the press in Barcelona have not exactly been happy ones. They have been years affected by technological renovation and the reconversion, with the strong incidence of the different television channels in the country. Despite the democratic change and the economic development of these years, reading the newspaper continues to be a minority practice for us. In June 1990, when he wrote this article, the author counted six newspapers of general information in Barcelona. The diversity of models, and the economic importance of them, is homogeneous, but all in the same language.

In the chapter that deals with the changes that have come about, the writer of this article puts special emphasis on the influence of political, cultural and economic agents that were present in newspaper writing. The role of press offices, and the specialisation in many fields mean that the slang of engineers, architects, doctors and economists, is penetrating the press at an increasing rate. All of this contributes to the opacity of the language. Therefore, according to the author, journalistic writing has not undergone positive transformations worthy of reporting in the last fifteen years.